

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10

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AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KS, UN

SUBJECT: ROK REACTION TO UNSC VOTE ON KOREAN MEMBERSHIP
(CHAPTER II)

1. PRESS TREATMENT OF UNSC VOTE HAS NOW DEVELOPED CLEAR
PATTERN OF CRITICISM OF ROKG, NOT SO MUCH FOR LOSING AS
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FOR FAILING TO EVEN GET PAST THE FIRST INNING. COMMENTARY

HAS FOCUSED ON THE ROKG FAILURE TO SECURE THE NEEDED NINE SC VOTES BEFORE ASKING THAT ITS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BE RECONSIDERED.

2. THE US HAS NOT BEEN CRITICIZED. INSTEAD COMMENT HAS CENTERED ON THE ABSENCE OF A WELL-DEvised ROKG PLAN, THE HASTE WITH WHICH THE EFFORT WAS MOUNTED AND THE JAPANESE SC PRESIDENT'S INEXPERIENCE AS REASONS FOR THE FAILURE. THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE HAND-WRINGING ABOUT THE FALL-OUT EFFECT OF THE REJECTION ON THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE OF THE KOREAN QUESTION, BUT NOTHING IN THE WAY OF CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS. CLEARLY THE LOSS OF FACE IN FAILING TO EVEN GET ON THE AGENDA HAS HURT. AFTER THE INITIAL WAVE OF REACTION, HOWEVER, THE MEMBERSHIP ISSUE HAS BEEN DISPLACED BY OTHER NEWS AND IS NO LONGER APPEARING IN TODAY'S PAPERS. PERHAPS THE GOVERNMENT HAS HEARD ENOUGH.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER KIM TONG-CHO'S REACTION HAS BEEN UNDERSTANDABLY CONSIDERABLY MORE UPBEAT THAN THE KOREAN PRESS REACTION. IN AUGUST 10 CONVERSATION WITH POL COUNSELOR HE SAID HE BELIEVES THE US VETO OF THE TWO VIETNAMESE APPLICATIONS MIGHT LEAD TO DISSENSION BETWEEN THE VIET-NAMS AND THE DPRK AND ULTIMATELY GREATER PRESSURE ON NORTH KOREA TO COMPROSIMSE ON THE MEMBERSHIP QUESTION. IN THIS REGARD HE NOTED THAT THE TWO VIET-NAMS ARE WELL AWARE THAT NORTH KOREA AND NOT THE US IS FROM THEIR STANDPOINT THE ULTIMATE CULPRIT IN THIS MATTER. HE EXPRESSED GREAT APPRECIATION FOR US WILLINGNESS TO RESORT TO THE VETO IN ORDER TO CREATE LEVERAGE AGAINST THE NORTH KOREANS.
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